



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/768,744 | 02/02/2004 | Christopher Hunter | 120-000220US | 4909 |
| 22798 7590 02/16/2010 QUINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, P.C. P O BOX 458 ALAMEDA, CA 94501 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| WOODWARD, CHERIE MICHELLE | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1647 | | | | |
| MAIL DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 02/16/2010 | | PAPER | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary

Application No.

10/768,744

Applicant(s)

HUNTER ET AL.

Examiner

CHERIE M. WOODWARD

Art Unit

1647

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Cherie M. Woodward, Primary Examiner.

(3) Stacy Landry, Applicant's Representative.

(2) Gary B. Nickol, SPE.

(4) Christopher Hunter, co-inventor.

Date of Interview: 02 February 2010.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal (copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☒ Yes e) ☐ No.

If Yes, brief description: Summary of state of art contemporaneous to Applicant's provisional filings (attached).

Claim(s) discussed: All pending.

Identification of prior art discussed: All prior art of record.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☒ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Cherie M. Woodward/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1647

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiner's Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The interview agenda prepared by Applicant's attorney is attached. Pending rejections include a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection and four rejections under 35 USC 102. Applicant's Representative Landry and co-inventor Hunter emphasized the aspect of the invention as being a method of using an agonist to treat a patient in need of immune suppression. Applicant's Representative Landry took issue with the teachings of Timans, particularly paragraphs 39 and 161. Applicant was asked by SPE Nickol whether Timans teaches the specific use of IL-27R agonist. Representative Landry replied in the affirmative. SPE Nickol asked whether the patients in need of immune suppression were taught in Timans. Applicant's representative replied in the affirmative. When asked how would one identify someone in need of immune suppression, co-inventor Hunter stated that a patient in need of immune suppression (the population to be affected by the claimed method) would be any patient who could be treated with steroids. Representative Landry and co-inventor Hunter stated that the prior art literature teaches that one of skill in the art would want to suppress (antagonize) IL-27 because the literature suggests that it is proinflammatory. Examiner Woodward pointed out, as previously stated of record, that the prior art shows the pleiotropic nature of IL-27 as both an pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory cytokine and that this dual-nature is well documented. Examiner Woodward pointed out that paragraph 39 of Timans teaches the use of the species of IL-27 (a species of IL-27R agonist - recognized as an agonist species in Applicant's specification at page 75) in tissue rejection (in a patient population in need of immune suppression). The "time of invention" statement in Applicant's interview agenda was discussed. Representative Landry clarified that the "time of invention" referred to the time of the provisional application filings. Representative Landry stated that more clarification on the denial of benefit to the provisional applications was requested. Examiner Woodward stated that this could be provided in the next Office Action. SPE Nickol pointed out that even if benefit was granted to the non-provisional applications, the prior art rejections would still stand, based on their publication and benefit dates. Representative Landry asked whether a Declaration by co-inventor Hunter would be considered, if filed. Examiner Woodward stated that Applicant may file a Declaration if they wished and that it would be fully considered. Representative Landry stated that an appeal may be considered. The references listed on Applicant's Interview Agenda have not been considered unless they have been cited on an IDS.